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Among the painters contributing are William Clusman, Wilson H. Irvine, Mrs. E. R. Colburn and C. L. McKenney. A high standard was upheld.

**THE FRIENDS
OF AMERICAN
ART** The "Friends of American Art," a society formed to promote the development of Amer-

ican Art by the purchase of works by American artists, to be presented to the Art Institute of Chicago, has, as an initial step, made certain purchases from the annual Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Sculpture, reviewed by Miss McCauley in the November number of ART AND PROGRESS. The membership of this society is now 151 and it is steadily increasing. The purchasing fund amounts to about \$30,000 a year. This effort to promote American art and enrich the galleries of the Art Institute is attracting much attention. The following pictures are among those recently purchased by the Society and accepted by the Institute for its permanent collection. "The Idlers," by Karl Anderson, awarded a prize at the last Carnegie Institute Exhibition; "Ice-bound," by Willard L. Metcalf, reproduced in the November number of ART AND PROGRESS; "Hills of Byram," by Daniel Garber; "A Rainy Day," by Frank W. Benson; "Christmas Eve," by H. Van der Weyden; "Apple Blossoms," by Louis Betts; "The Winter Sun," by Gardner Symons; and "Sunlight," by John W. Alexander.

**ART IN
CONNECTICUT** The Connecticut Academy of the Fine Arts has just held its first exhibition which consisted of seventy-seven paintings and nine works in sculpture. These were contributed chiefly by resident artists though the exhibition was open to all. Among the painters represented were Charles Noël Flagg, John F. Weir, Lydia Field Emmet, Carleton Wiggins, William Gedney Bunce, and Clark G. Voorhees; and among the sculptors Solon Borglum and John Flanagan. Mr. Flagg, the secre-

tary of the Academy, said, in an article in the *Hartford Daily Courant*: "What we need and hope to have is an adequate place where living artists, and especially young artists, may have a chance to submit their productions under favorable conditions to the public." By and by this Academy may vie with those of earlier establishment preaching beyond the boundaries of its special province, but for the present it does well to restrict and concentrate its activities. The character of the Academy's first exhibition is said to have given much promise.

**SAFEGUARDING
NATURAL
BEAUTY** Out in Colorado there was, and still is, near one of the towns a canon wherein a beautiful little waterfall has created a miniature paradise, a grove of trees and flowers being not only brought into life but sustained by the moisture of its spray. Water, however, means power, and a commercial company determined to use the water of this stream above the falls, regardless of the fact that by so doing they would completely despoil the loveliness of this place. The town brought suit against the company and won the suit; the United States Circuit Court, before which the case came to trial, declaring in effect that beauty is a material asset of positive value, to be guarded and protected like other property, that the waters of this stream were already "appropriated for a beneficial use," giving pleasure to many. Such a decision would certainly indicate a broadening viewpoint and an increasing appreciation of the worth of those things which have no actual money value and yet are priceless. It should, moreover, as the *Outlook* has commented, reinforce the effort to preserve beauty throughout the country.

**THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF FORT WAYNE** Fort Wayne, Indiana, had a "Civic Revival" some months ago and as a result the Fort Wayne Civic Improvement Association has sought the advice of Mr. Charles